

briefly say, is that this is written in such a manner that if you include the fertilizer tax, it was put into that fund a couple years ago, plus this checkoff. About half of those incentives for gasohol production will be paid from the production of agriculture, in effect, the other portion would be coming from the General Fund over a period of time, as it was needed on a transfer basis from the General Fund to the EPIC Fund. So I would move adoption of the committee amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Warner. Mr. Clerk, I understand you have an amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schrock would move to amend the committee amendments. (The Schrock amendment, AM0686, appears on page 956 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I have a handout for those of you who would like to follow along, I would like to point out a few things here. The amendment, by the way, would strike three-quarters of a cent and drop the checkoff rate to half a cent. This handout contains the seven largest corn producing states in the nation. I would just like to tell you a little bit what we're doing to our farmers in the State of Nebraska as to what other states do to their farmers. First off, we would be the only one of the seven producing states that would have a checkoff of over half a cent. You would also note that Iowa and Nebraska are the only two states that don't have a provision where the farmer can write in and get their money back. You would also note that we are the only state, with the exception of Iowa, that has a fertilizer tax and I would tell you that our fertilizer tax is easily five times higher than any states...any of the other states around us. I don't know if agriculture is important to this state or not. I understand half of the jobs in the State of Nebraska do...are provided by agricultural related jobs. I passed out a little cartoon this morning. It's at least a hundred years old but things don't seem to change. Now, I am willing to work with Senator McKenzie or any other senator who would like to work on this issue and I would be willing to withdraw my amendment, but I would hope everybody realizes that agriculture does not have a very prestigious spot in this State of Nebraska. Maybe three-quarters of a cent isn't too high. I don't know what the magic figure is, but it does become an item. There's only four